
Note to Contributors

Bacteriological Reviews is published under the auspices of the Society of American Bacteriologists to provide authoritative, critical surveys on the current status of subjects and problems in the diverse fields of microbiology. This includes the occasional short monograph.

Suggestions for timely reviews are solicited; and prospective authors are invited to discuss with the Editor the suitability of their proposed manuscripts. The submittal of a synopsis or topical outline for an advisory opinion is recommended. Except as noted under *References* the editorial style of *Bacteriological Reviews* is the same as that of the *Journal of Bacteriology*. Contributors should consult the Instructions to Authors published in each issue of the *Journal* for details. In addition, the following suggestions may serve as a general guide.

Plan and Content of Review. A rational, balanced development of the topic, rather than a chronological treatment, is to be preferred. Old history, if any, may be covered usually by simple reference to earlier reviews. A mere compilation or annotated bibliography does not adequately serve the objectives of this journal. The extensive presentation of new experimental material belongs properly in the domain of the monograph or of the appropriate "experimental" journal.

References. Judicious selection of references is an important function of the reviewer. Cited references should be listed alphabetically according to author and numbered serially, the numbers being used in the text. The full title of each paper should be given. Each citation should be checked with the original publication to avoid embarrassing errors. The system used in *Chemical Abstracts* for abbreviations of journal names should be followed.

Length. The length of a paper is no measure of its quality, and it is only the latter that determines acceptability for publication. However, practical considerations make it desirable to set a provisional limit of 30 to 40 printed pages for a review, text, tables, figures and references included. (About 10,000 words go into 20 pages; 24 references per page.) A short monograph must come within the size of a single issue, about 100 pages.

The acceptability of a review cannot, of course, be finally decided until the finished product has been examined. Acceptance of a short monograph, is also contingent upon the advice of the Editor of the *Journal of Bacteriology*.

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